

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-05 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01

EB-08 /090 W

-----095430 290855Z /10

R 290732Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4294

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 7693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM MASS IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY
EXPENDITURES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WE HAVE NOTED EXTENSIVE REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS THAT
SHAH CONCENTRATED ON A DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HIS
MAJOR PUBLIC ADDRESSES AT WARSAW AND PRAGUE UNIVERSITIES.

2. MAJOR THRUST OF BOTH SPEECHES -- WHICH WOULD APPEAR
TO COME FROM ESSENTIALLY THE SAME SCRIPT -- WAS THAT
IRAN HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN WORKING TO PROTECT SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS. SHAH SAID STRUGGLE
FOR POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS BELONGS TO A FORMER
AGE. "TODAY THIS STAGE IS LEFT BEHIND AND EACH COUNTRY
HAS ORGANIZATIONS FOR JUSTICE AND RECORDED LAWS, WHICH
ENCOMPASS EVERYBODY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN PRACTICE
THESE ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT FUNCTION WITH THE
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY EXPECTED FROM THEM. BUT
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THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM OF PRINCIPLE; IT CONCERNS
ONLY METHODS OF CARRYING IT OUT." THE IMPORTANT
PROBLEM LEFT TODAY, SHAH CONTINUED, IS EXPANSION
ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF WHAT HE CALLED
COMPLEMENTARY RIGHTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
JUSTICE. CITING SEVERAL ARTICLES OF THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE SHAH IS REPORTED

AS SAYING THE PRESENT WORLD ORDER MILITATES AGAINST THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS GUARANTEED THEREIN. WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO SINGLE OUT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD SHOULD A RESPONSIBILITY PROPORTIONATE TO ITS WEALTH AND RESOURCES IN A STRUGGLE TO END THE GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS.

3. THE 19 PRINCIPLES OF THE IRANIAN (WHITE) REVOLUTION HAVE OFFERED THE IRANIAN PEOPLE A SOLID OPPORTUNITY AND WIDE SCOPE FOR A "DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY", THE SHAH SAID. THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS. IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY HOLDS THAT DIFFERENT NATIONS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN ROADS TO PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT, SINCE THEIR GOALS ARE THE SAME.

4. IN PRAGUE SPEECH SHAH ALSO REPORTEDLY THREW IN A REFERENCE TO ARMS EXPENDITURES. HE DEPLORED THAT WORLD GOVERNMENTS ARE SPENDING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON MILITARY SERVICES AND ARMAMENTS WHILE A MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LANGUISHES IN UTTER POVERTY, STRICKEN BY ILLITERACY, DISEASE, AND EVER-INCREASING INSECURITY.
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END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: SHAH OF COURSE DOES NOT SEE ANY INCONSISTENCY IN THIS LAST CONCERN AGAINST BACKDROP OF IRANIAN ARMS PURCHASES SINCE HE HAS REGULARLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IS FORCED ON HIM BY WORLD REALITIES AND IRAN WOULD DISARM IF THE REST OF THE WORLD DID TOO.

6. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT, WHILE SHAH'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUNDANTLY SERVE HIS PURPOSE IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HE HAS BEEN VISITING, THEIR MESSAGE IS ALSO INTENDED FOR A WIDER AUDIENCE. HIS CHARACTERISTIC FOCUS ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE SERVES BOTH TO FEND OFF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND TO REMIND HIS OWN DOMESTIC AUDIENCES THAT THEY ARE BENEFITING FROM GREATER ECONOMIC

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 7693

PLENTY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
OFFERED BY AN ESSENTIALLY FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY.
HIS ARGUMENT THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL AND
CIVIL RIGHTS BELONGS TO A FORMER AGE IS, OF COURSE,
AN EXAGGERATION WHICH OPENS HIM TO CRITICISM. IT
IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS ARGUMENT THAT ANY SHORTCOMINGS
IN POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS ARE NOT THE RESULT OF
PRINCIPLE BUT, BY IMPLICATION, DERIVE FROM EXCESSES OF
ZEAL AND ISOLATED ABUSES.

7. WE DO NOT THINK THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED BY
CLOSE ANALYSIS AND ARGUMENTATION ON THIS VIEW.
ITS ENUNCIATION INDICATES THE SHAH'S CONCERN TO
APPEAR AS A DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HIS
DEFINITION INCORPORATES IRANIAN REALITIES AND HIS HOPES
FOR THE FUTURE BOTH IN IRAN AND IN THE REST OF THE
WORLD. THIS IS A USEFUL STATE OF MIND FOR THE
SHAH TO BE IN FROM THE USG'S POINT OF VIEW.
SULLIVAN

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